

Newsletter

Sunday 3rd March 2024



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

It's been quite exciting filling out the data, which the Diocese and The Church of England require, relating our 'worshipping community' (Sunday, Wednesday, Messy Church, Little Church and Communion at home) and realising that we are once again growing. We still have a way to go to reach pre Covid numbers but even though we have had quite a few of our older members die in the last year, we still have a net gain of around 30+ people. We also have a lot more people under 70 than over that age. Some of you will remember that when I came to Bromborough we could count more over 90 than under 60! What has changed is the worshipping practises that people adopt. There are growing numbers at our monthly Messy Church – which is still church though not as many of us know it. We have a consistent group on Thursdays at Little Church and our 11.00 am service has begun to grow too. If you are only in church at 9.15 am on Sunday you will not realise the growth that is happening, which is why I am writing about it here. Another change in attendance is to do with frequency. During Covid all of us aged, some people discovered that life at home on Sunday morning was good, one or two found alternative places to visit and a few lost touch altogether. If you are someone reading this and hasn't been to St Barnabas for a while, please come back. There is no judgement and no need to be embarrassed.

One of the lovely things that happened as a result of the change in service times, is that the congregations of both services get the chance to meet and chat over coffee and cake or biscuits. I love watching all the little conversations that are going on and there are a couple of people who simply come to meet others at 10.30 am. I think that's great. One of our younger members said to me, 'There's a really good vibe going on here during coffee.' Remember, if you see someone without anyone to chat to, then make sure that you talk to them. There is nothing worse than being at church coffee and no one talking to you. I can testify to that from experience.

Something that we are not asked about when we fill in data is about the gender of our congregations. 10 years ago we had a very tiny number of church members who identified as male. Now we have more, and it is good to see them supporting one another and setting up their own men's group. They meet monthly for breakfast at The Royal Oak. If you haven't been and would like to go contact Malcolm 07837886962 or speak to one of the other chaps. All are welcome and it is appropriate for those with faith and those without.

On the subject of membership. The Church of England does not have membership in the way that some free churches or other denominations do. Historically this is because we are the church of state, a church for everyone who lives within the parish. The closest thing to being made a spiritual member of The Church of England is to be first baptised and then confirmed. All churches recognise each other's baptism as valid. Most parish churches also permit a person who is in 'good standing' within your own denomination to receive communion. That means if you were allowed it as for example, a catholic, a Methodist a Baptist or a Pentecostal you can receive communion with us. You are welcome and I hope you feel you belong. If however, you wish to be able to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Council, you will need to be over 16, have been baptised and either live in the parish or have attended St Barnabas for at least 6 months prior to completing the electoral roll forms. If you wish to be Churchwarden, you have to be over 21 and receive communion and attend worship. Parochial Church Council members are elected at the APCM and immediately prior to this, Churchwardens are also elected by the same group of people. If you want to go into more detail, then you can look at the Church representation rules or the Churchwarden's measure 2021 online.

If you are able to be on the electoral roll I would ask you to make sure that you are. Apart from any other reason, it affects the numbers we have on the Deanery synod group, it effects the number on PCC and it enables me to have easy access to your contact details and your preferences under GDPR. It is also another way of saying, 'I'm in.' There are forms at the back of church in the black folder and I am happy to chat to anyone about filling them in.

Wishing you every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denny', written in a cursive style.

What's on this week

Sunday 3 rd March	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Words and Worship
Monday 4 th March	The Centre opens weekdays 9.00 am till 2.00 pm 1.30 pm Knit and Knatter in the centre
Tuesday 5 th March	12-2.30 The Club house In the Village Hall. 7pm Lent Talk at Bromborough Methodist Church. 7.30 pm Ladies Fellowship meet in the centre
Wednesday 6 th March	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre 1.30 pm Bible Study in the Centre
Thursday 7 th March	10.00 am Little Church in church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall All welcome
Sunday 10 th March	9.15 am 1662 Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday with Revd David Felix 11.00 am Words and worship for Mothering Sunday with Revd David Felix

Sunday 3rd March 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20.1-17
1 Corinthians 1.18-25
*John 2.13-22

Wednesday 6th February

Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9
Matthew 5: 17-19

Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2: 1-10
2 Corinthians 1: 3-7
John 19: 25b-27

*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Notices

Lent Talks on Tuesdays at 7pm

There will be the usual Lent Talks held at The Methodist Church for all the churches in Bromborough and Eastham. The sessions are the ones in the 'On the Third day' course. 1. Have I got news for you! 2. So what? The implications of the resurrection 3. 'Let him Easter in us': Personal discipleship in the light of the resurrection 4. A Risen Church 5. Celebrating and praying Easter.

Lent group

We will meet on Wednesdays in Lent at 1.30pm in The Centre. We are looking at a York Notes course called 'On the third day.' It will be over by about 3 pm. If you have a Bible, bring one. If not, we can provide you with one.

The Electoral Roll

Our huge thanks to Lesley for her work on this (with a little help from Clive). She has kept us up to date and curated the list of names. For health reasons, Lesley is standing down and the PCC have decided that the task will now sit with Fiona Austin. The Electoral roll is a list of the names and details of all those who are eligible to vote at the APCM. More practically, it affects the number of people on PCC (and whether you can be on the PCC or not). It also helps me to have your contact details. You are entitled to be on the roll if you are baptised (in any recognised Christian Church) and live within the Parish or attend the church regularly. If you are not on the roll ask for a form or look on the table at the back of church.

Thank you from Chloe Smith?

Chloe would like to thank you all for sponsoring her. With your support, she was able to raise £100 towards the cost of the Rangers trip to Edinburgh.

Are you the next Churchwarden?

We will need two churchwardens at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) this year. Could it be you? Or if not you the person sitting in front of you? Or if not them, the person that the Lord tells you to speak to when you next see them? Please pray about this. We cannot run another year without two wardens. It is not fair on the one who does it. God is calling. Are you listening?

Counting Money

There is a small team who count money on Monday mornings. **We need some more people who would be able to do this as part of a rota.** Could it be you? Or would you be willing to count occasionally on a Sunday after the 11.00 am service? We are getting back to doing this on a weekly basis. Speak to Thelma McGorry, to Julie Watts or to me and I will send you in the right direction.

Looking ahead to Easter – giving away Easter eggs

There will be Messy Church held as usual on Good Friday at 10.00 am. We usually have a lot of children who attend. We also plan to give out the Real Easter Eggs which are accompanied by a Bible story booklet about Easter. We have purchased 60 eggs to give out at a cost of £60. We have also purchased a similar give away box for the Foodbank. This means it has cost us £86. We are not without funds for such purchases but any donations for this specific project would be welcome. Please pop them in an envelope and put them on a plate. If you are able to *giftaid*, please tell us who you are.

For your diary

We will have the usual Maundy Thursday meal on 28th March. We arrive at about 6.30 pm. Food at 7 pm. There will be a service on Good Friday afternoon starting at 1.30pm. You as always are welcome to come to some or all of it. We will have an easter Vigil service at 6.30 pm on Easter Saturday. Between the services on Easter Sunday we will be having bacon and/or Sausages in bread rolls. We will also be saying a formal thank you on her retirement to Lynne Whittaker, for her years of service as a reader.

Men's Breakfasts

I love to hear that you chaps are meeting up regularly. I am told that it is very relaxed and a good chat. It starts at 9.00 am at the Royal Oak. Apparently, the breakfast is not costly and tastes good too. All men are welcome, those who attend church and those who don't. If you are a bit worried about turning up on your own, do speak to one of the men who will, I am certain, give you a lift or meet you in the doorway. Future dates are 16th March, 20th April and 18th May.

The Centre Breakfasts

The next breakfast event is on Saturday 13th April At 9.30 pm – 11.00 am

Parish Prayers

The next parish prayers will be on **13th April** and it will take place in the centre at the slightly later time of 10.30 so that you can eat your breakfast first and then join us. I am sure that if you are not a cooked breakfast type of person they would be glad to let you have a few slices of toast.

A note about regular donations and Gift Aid

Do you give regularly using a white envelope or by cash into the plate? Would you consider paying by standing order instead? All you need to do is fill in a standing order form (available at the back of the church) and take it to your bank. If you bank online you can set up the payment online direct to the church bank account: HSBC sortcode **40-15-04** account number **10183334** name of bank account: **Bromborough PCC**. You are in control of what you send. You can change the amount, up or down (but we hope up!) You can pay weekly or monthly.

The funds will come straight into the bank account. If you are a Gift Aider, we can automatically tag your donation to claim Gift Aid.

Please note: we are delighted that so many of you are using the tap to give device to make donations. However, if you are a gift aider, when a payment comes through from the device, we do not know that it was you who made a payment and we therefore miss out on your gift aid. Perhaps you could send an online

payment instead? Or set up a standing order? We can see that the donation is from you, and we can tag it for gift aid.

If you have made donations on the tap to give device that we could claim gift aid on, please let me know. I need the date and the amount. I don't need to tell anyone else if that is a concern for you.

Thanks all! Julie

Communications and the new website

Andrew Watts is our communications team leader. He will work with Anna and Natalie F. to develop the way that we communicate with those in church and even more importantly, outside of it. This will involve a revision of the logo and a look at what we say, where we say it and how we say it. At the moment, even with the changes we implemented several years ago, designing posters, Facebook posts (mine included) and banners is all a bit haphazard. Andrew and Anna both bring a wealth of professional experience that we can utilise. Remember the website is www.stbarnabasbromborough.org.

Donate to St Barnabas as you shop online!

Sign up with GiveAsYouLive.com and choose 'PCC of St Barnabas, Bromborough' as your chosen charity. If you need help ask Julie Watts or Thelma McGorry.

We need a name - can you help?

As the work we do to feed and support families in our area grows, we need to have a name that we can call it. Food for Families or Feeding families no longer seems adequate or entirely encompasses all that we do and hope to do moving forward. It could be a title that references a person, event or place in The Bible. It might be a phrase from a prayer – Daily Bread springs to mind but it's pretty common. It could be a mixture of key words connected with what we do e.g. love, serving, compassion, feeding, support, help. I have been looking and thinking. Sadly there are several Barnabas projects (though we don't have to be original). What do you think? What is God whispering in your ear or shouting in your head? Drop me a text or email. It's fairly urgent as we would like to begin to use the name on our web pages and when we apply for grants. It will operate under our charity number so no change there.

For our Prayers

We continue to pray for good health and healing for; Maureen Coleman, Lesley Cobb, Gloria and Gordon Simmonds. We continue to pray for our church family at home: Josie Davies, Thelma Williams and Pat Porter. We pray for our link Missionaries Marcio and Noemi and their children in Brazil. We thank God for the work that they are doing in Indaiatuba. Please also pray especially for two new churchwardens.

The Rector Jenny can be contacted at rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org or via her mobile 07806608219

Please send notices for inclusion in the Newsletter to ros.wood@outlook.com by Wednesday at 4pm.